

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A liquid ejecting apparatus for performing recording on a recording material conveyed to a plurality of liquid ejection areas, arranged in a feeding direction of the recording material, by ejecting liquid onto said recording material, comprising:

a plurality of first transfer rollers separately provided from each other in a substantially same line along a main scanning direction crossing a the feeding direction of said the recording material, for transferring ~~said the~~ recording material in ~~said the~~ feeding direction while bending ~~said the~~ recording material inwards on a liquid ejection surface of ~~said the~~ recording material in said liquid ejection area;

a plurality of first ribs disposed ~~in~~ downstream in the feeding direction of the most upstream one of said plurality of liquid ejection areas ~~said liquid ejection area~~ for supporting said recording material on a surface of said recording material opposite said liquid ejection surface, said first ribs being placed at substantially same positions in ~~said the~~ main scanning direction as said first transfer rollers respectively, directions and distances of said first ribs from said first transfer rollers in ~~said the~~ feeding direction being substantially equal to each other; and

a first liquid absorption material disposed between said first transfer rollers and said first ribs for absorbing said liquid; and

a wall disposed upstream in the feeding direction of the most upstream one of said plurality of liquid ejection areas, said wall guiding the recording material to said plurality of liquid ejection areas.

2. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first transfer rollers convey said recording material to said liquid ejection area, and

said first ribs are disposed downstream of said feeding direction of said recording material against said first transfer rollers.

3. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 2 further comprising:

a plurality of second transfer rollers disposed downstream of said feeding direction of said recording material against said first liquid absorption material, for conveying said recording material out of said liquid ejection area while bending said recording material inwards on a liquid ejection surface of said recording material in said liquid ejection area;

a plurality of second ribs disposed in said liquid ejection area for supporting said recording material on said surface of said recording material opposite said liquid ejection surface, said second ribs being placed at substantially same positions in said main scanning direction as said second transfer rollers respectively, and being placed at a substantially same position between said second transfer rollers and said first ribs in said feeding direction; and

a second liquid absorption material disposed between said second transfer rollers and said second ribs for absorbing said liquid.

4. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said second transfer rollers and second ribs are arranged at substantially same positions in main scanning direction as said first transfer rollers and first ribs respectively.

5. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first transfer rollers convey said recording material out of said liquid ejection area, and
said first ribs are disposed upstream of said feeding direction of said recording material against said first transfer rollers.

6. (currently amended): A liquid ejecting apparatus for performing recording on a recording material by ejecting liquid onto said recording material, comprising:

a liquid ejecting head reciprocating in a main scanning direction substantially crossing a feeding direction of said recording material;

a plurality of main nozzle arrays separately provided from each other in said feeding direction on a surface of said liquid ejecting head facing said recording material for ejecting different main liquid respectively;

an upstream sub-nozzle array provided on said surface of said liquid ejecting head facing said recording material for ejecting sub-liquid onto an area different from that of said main liquid, said upstream sub-nozzle array being disposed at a substantially same position in said feeding direction as one of said main nozzle arrays positioned most upstream of said feeding direction;

at least one support rib disposed to face areas between said main nozzle arrays via said recording material for supporting said recording material; and

a control unit for controlling said sub-liquid to be ejected from said upstream sub-nozzle array, when said main and sub-liquid is ejected onto an upper end of said recording material;

wherein said liquid ejecting head further comprises a downstream sub-nozzle array provided at a substantially same position in said feeding direction as one of said main nozzle arrays positioned most downstream of said feeding direction for ejecting said sub-liquid onto an area different from that of said main liquid, and

said control unit uses said upstream sub-nozzle array when said sub-liquid is ejected onto said upper end of said recording material, whereas using said downstream sub-nozzle array when said sub-liquid is ejected onto a lower end of said recording material, in case only said sub-liquid is ejected onto said recording material without ejection of said main liquid.

7. (cancelled).

8. (currently amended): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim ~~7~~6 further comprising: an auxiliary sub-nozzle array disposed between said upstream and downstream sub-nozzle arrays in said feeding direction,

wherein said control unit uses said upstream, downstream, and auxiliary sub-nozzle arrays when said sub-liquid is ejected onto an area except said upper and lower ends of said recording material.

9. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said liquid ejecting apparatus is an inkjet type recording apparatus, and

said liquid ejecting head ejects ink of a plurality of colors except black for color recording from said plurality of main nozzle arrays, whereas ejecting black ink from said sub-nozzle arrays.

10. (currently amended): A liquid ejecting apparatus for performing recording on a recording material conveyed to a plurality of liquid ejection areas arranged in a feeding direction of the recording material, by ejecting liquid onto said recording material, comprising:

a liquid ejecting head reciprocating in a main scanning direction substantially crossing a the feeding direction of said-the recording material;

a plurality of nozzle arrays separately provided from each other in said-the feeding direction on a surface of said liquid ejecting head facing said-the recording material for ejecting liquid respectively; ~~and~~

at least one support rib disposed to face areas between said main nozzle arrays via said the recording material for supporting said-the recording material; and

a wall disposed upstream in the feeding direction of the most upstream one of said plurality of liquid ejection areas, said wall guiding the recording material to said plurality of liquid ejection areas;

wherein a plurality of recess sections are formed extending in said-the main scanning direction at positions facing said nozzle arrays via said-the recording material respectively and dented to be lower than said support rib around said support rib.

11. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising: at least one liquid absorption material disposed in said recess sections for absorbing liquid ejected from said nozzle arrays.

12. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising:
a plurality of first transfer rollers separately provided from each other in an approximately same line along said main scanning direction, for transferring said recording material in said feeding direction while bending said recording material inwards on a liquid ejection surface of said recording material at a position facing said liquid ejecting head; and
a plurality of second transfer rollers disposed downstream of said feeding direction against said support rib, for conveying said recording material out of said position facing said liquid ejecting head while bending said recording material inwards on said liquid ejection surface at said position facing said liquid ejecting head,

wherein said support rib comprises:

a plurality of first ribs placed at substantially same positions in said main scanning direction as said first transfer rollers respectively, directions and distances of said first ribs from said first transfer rollers in said feeding direction being substantially equal to each other; and

a plurality of second ribs placed at substantially same positions in said main scanning direction as said second transfer rollers respectively, and being placed at a substantially same position between said second transfer rollers and said first ribs in said feeding direction.

13. (original): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising: a control unit for controlling said nozzle arrays, wherein said plurality of nozzle arrays comprises:
an upstream nozzle array; and
a downstream nozzle array disposed downstream of said feeding direction against said upstream nozzle array, and
said control unit uses said upstream nozzle array when said liquid is ejected onto an upper end of said recording material, whereas using said downstream nozzle array when said liquid is ejected onto a lower end of said recording material.

14. (new): A liquid ejecting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of second ribs separately disposed downstream of said plurality of first ribs, said plurality of second ribs being distanced from said plurality of first ribs.